

## A COMMON LANGUAGE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there are those who now proclaim that our children be required to learn Spanish. Mr. Speaker, I thought English was the national language. Up until recently, almost all immigrants that came to America learned the language, English. That included the Germans, Dutch, French, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, South Asians and on and on.

So why the push to require Americans to learn Spanish? Why not Chinese? More people in the world speak Chinese than any other language, or German. According to the Census Bureau, more Americans, including my family, claim German ancestry over any other heritage. But when our Forefathers debated this language issue years ago, English won out over German.

It seems to me that it's logical that in the U.S. we ought to speak at least the same language, English. And if people want to speak an additional language, let them choose, not the government, which language to speak.

It doesn't seem too much to require people that come to America that they work, follow the law, and learn the common language. Otherwise, we will become a community of nations, rather than a Nation of communities.

Und das ist nur die Art, wie es ist.

## ACTIONS TO REDUCE GAS PRICES

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, despite what Senator MCCAIN's top economic adviser believes, Americans are not whining when they express concern about today's economy. With two oil men in the White House, gas prices have nearly tripled and Big Oil's profits have skyrocketed. The President's action to lift the offshore drilling ban does nothing to lower gas prices now. In fact, his own Energy Information Administration says it will not affect gas prices for nearly 20 years, and even then it will only drop the cost of a gallon of gas by two pennies.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are hurting now and cannot wait 20 years. That's why House Democrats continue to urge the President to release our oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an action that is not new nor untested and has proven to reduce prices at the pump immediately.

Additionally, I would like us to consider setting a national speed limit at 60 miles per hour. That would reduce the cost of gas by 30 cents a gallon.

## DRILL IN AMERICA AND BRING DOWN THE PRICE OF GAS

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to urge the Speaker of the House to join with our leader, JOHN BOEHNER, in lowering the price of gasoline. They can do it immediately simply by holding a press conference and announcing we're going to work together in a non-partisan way for the good of America to open up domestic energy sources by drilling in the United States. We're the only Nation on the face of the Earth that will not use our own natural resources. This is just fundamental common sense. Schlumberger and Shell have said that there is more shale oil in three Western States than all the oil in the Middle East combined.

We could open up the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. Congress now can move, and in a bipartisan way, to bring down the price of oil simply by announcing we're moving to open up these domestic sources. The marketplace will respond and the price of gas and the price of oil will drop. This is so simple, it's so easy, it's so good for America.

Let's all stand together without regard to party for the benefit of this Nation, which is hurting so much from high gas prices, and say we are going to use American resources for America to create good, high-paying American jobs.

Drill in America in a safe, environmentally clean way, and bring down the price of gas today.

## MEDICARE LEGISLATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning to my colleagues.

As you recall, last month before the House adjourned for the July 4th recess, we passed legislation that would treat seniors and the disabled through Medicare. The legislation passed with strong bipartisan support with Democrats and Republicans recognizing the need to pass this legislation. Last week, the Senate finally followed our lead and passed the bill. Senator KENNEDY courageously returned to Capitol Hill to lodge that vote.

The legislation is now sitting on the President's desk. He has a decision to make. Will he side with private insurers or will he support seniors and the disabled? A veto-proof majority in the House and Senate has now passed legislation that strengthens Medicare and ensures our seniors and disabled that they have access to a doctor that they know and trust.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush should drop his veto threat and join our Members in the House in support of legislation that puts seniors first and the disabled and strengthens a great program known as Medicare. He should sign the Medicare legislation as soon as possible.

## THE UNITED STATES MUST DIVERSIFY ITS ENERGY PORTFOLIO

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat majority in this House is just refusing to bring forth any legislation that will deal with the price at the pump. I think that they are content to have their constituents either ride a bike or walk to get where they want to go. In my Seventh District of Tennessee, that does not work.

What they might not know is that what we see happening at the pump is happening in every single energy sector. Tennesseans and Americans are paying more than ever for their gasoline, their groceries, and naturally to heat and cool their homes. It's bad enough during the summer driving months, but what my friends across the aisle might not know is that utility officials in Memphis have projected a 30-percent spike in the cost of natural gas for this fall. That is on top of a 13½ percent increase last fall.

This Congress must take action and the United States must diversify its energy portfolio and incentivize all types of energy production: Oil, natural gas, geothermal, hydroelectric, nuclear. It's all there.

The energy crisis affects everyone, Mr. Speaker. It is time for action.

## RELEASE OIL FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF AT THE PUMP

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we've heard on both sides today arguments about the energy crisis. The fact is these arguments are why Congress is held in such low esteem. There are just a couple of things that can be done immediately to help people with the price at the pump, and the major thing that can be done is releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. That's been a proven success with President Bush I, President Clinton, and even this President Bush, and yet he refuses.

Why does he refuse? Because it would hurt the profits of the oil companies. And who gave us this President and this Vice President? The oil companies. This is government of the oil companies, by the oil companies, and for the oil companies. And the people of my district are tired of paying this high price.

Twenty years drilling, you might as well think about your child being born today and planning to see them have a car that gets 80 miles to the gallon in 20 years because that's when the oil that might be pumped today in the Outer Shelf would come to be. Immediate relief is releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.